


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT 
SUBJECT: Letters to Congressmen Roncalio and Morgan
regarding the Lunt Case

Congressman Teno Roncalio wrote the President on June 11 to request the President's intervention to help secure the release of Lawrence Lunt, who has been imprisoned in Cuba since 1965. Doc Morgan wrote the President on June 17 to support Roncalio's request. Vernon Loen sent each Congressman an interim reply. (Incoming correspondence and replies at Tab C.)

Attached for your signature at Tabs A and B are suggested further responses to the Congressmen. The letters thank the Congressmen for the expression of interest and give assurances that active efforts to secure Mr. Lunt's release are continuing.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Dear Mr. Roncalio:

The President has asked that I reply further to your recent letter regarding Mr. Lawrence K. Lunt, Jr. Your expression of continuing concern and interest in this difficult matter is appreciated.

As you know, we have long sought to obtain Mr. Lunt's release, as well as that of other American citizens imprisoned in Cuba. Although it is not possible at this time to discuss ongoing efforts, I wish to assure you that active efforts to seek the release of Mr. Lunt are continuing.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
Teno Roncalio
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Suggested Reply

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of June 17 concerning Mr. Lawrence K. Lunt, Jr. Your expression of concern is appreciated.

Past efforts to secure Mr. Lunt's release from prison in Cuba and return to this country have not been successful. As I have also informed Congressman Roncalio, we are nonetheless continuing actively to work toward effecting Mr. Lunt's release. I can assure you that we are very much aware of this problem and share your concern and interest in securing his early return.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
Thomas E. Morgan
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

June 20, 1975

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your June 17 letter to the President concerning Mr. Lawrence K. Lunt, Jr. who has been imprisoned in Cuba for many years.

As you know, Congressman Roncalio presented this matter in a letter to the President earlier this week. I will be pleased to make certain that your letter in support of his appeal on behalf of Mr. Lunt is called to the attention of the President and the appropriate members of the staff.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loen
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Thomas E. Morgan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

VCL:EFLVO:jem

bcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for DRAFT REPLY

CLEMENT J. ZARLOCKI, WIS.
WAYNE L. HAYS, OHIO
L. H. FOUNTAIN, N.C.
DANTE B. PASCELL, FLA.
CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR., MICH.
ROBERT N. C. MIX, PA.
DONALD M. FRASER, MINN.
BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL, N.Y.
LEE H. HAMILTON, IND.
LESTER L. WOLFF, N.Y.
JONATHAN B. BINGHAM, N.Y.
GUS YATRON, PA.
ROY A. TAYLOR, N.C.
MICHAEL HARRINGTON, MASS.
LEO J. RYAN, CALIF.
CHARLES WILSON, TEX.
DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR., MICH.
CAROLIS COLLINS, ILL.
STEPHEN J. SOLARZ, N.Y.
HELEN S. MEYNER, N.J.
DON BONKER, WASH.

WILLIAM S. FIELD, MICH.
EDWARD J. DUBOIS, ILL.
PAUL FINDLEY, ILL.
JOHN H. BUCHANAN, JR., ALA.
J. HERBERT BURKE, FLA.
PIERRE S. DU PONT, DEL.
CHARLES W. WHALEN, JR., OHIO
EDWARD G. BIESTER, JR., PA.
LARRY WAIN, JR., KANS.
BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, N.Y.
TENNISON GUYER, OHIO
ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO, CALIF.

Congress of the United States

Committee on International Relations

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 17, 1975

MARIAN A. CZARNECKI
CHIEF OF STAFF

MF
The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

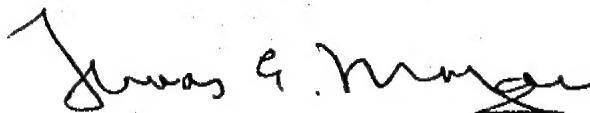
Dear Mr. President:

My good friend and colleague Representative Teno Roncalio of Wyoming has informed me about the hardships endured by Mr. Lawrence K. Lunt, Jr., who has been imprisoned in Cuba during the past ten years.

~~Congressman Roncalio assures me that Mr. Lunt is an outstanding~~
citizen of the United States and that his family and friends in Wyoming and Colorado have been trying in vain to obtain his release. I would like to support their plea in asking that all possible efforts be exerted by our government to help secure Mr. Lunt's freedom.

With best wishes, I am

Respectfully yours,



Chairman

TEM:mcd

4224

June 17, 1975

Dear Mr. Roncallo:

Thank you for your June 11 letter to the President concerning the case of Mr. Laurence M. Hunt, Jr., who has been imprisoned in Cuba since 1965.

Please be assured that your letter will be called to the President's attention at the earliest opportunity.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Vernon C. Loon
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Fano Roncallo
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
VCL:EP:VO:st

Wcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft for DRAFT REPLY.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 11, 1975

MF
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

My Dear Mr. President,

I write again to request your assistance in obtaining the release of Lawrence K. Lunt, Jr. Mr. Lunt has been incarcerated in Cuban prisons since 1965, on charges of espionage. A rancher is Cuba during Fidel Castro's political sway to the left, Mr. Lunt was an outspoken critic of Mr. Castro, and later, assisted the CIA by passing information to them, an act for which he was never trained or reciprocated by the CIA.

I have received a reply from the State Department, but, because of the sensitivity of the matter, they were unable to state positively, the actions they are taking to win Mr. Lunt's release.

Mr. Lunt is an outstanding citizen, well-known to Colorado and Wyoming, who comes from a fine and distinguished family. Several upstanding citizens in Colorado and Wyoming are actively pressing for his release. Many of these citizens are conservative and concerned ranchers.

I sincerely hope that you will intervene in this matter to facilitate Mr. Lunt's release. After an unsuccessful attempt to win his release in 1974, when Portugal finally agreed to release Captain Rodriguez Peralta, in exchange for Mr. Lunt, Cuba broke the exchange promise it had made in 1971; and, after 10 years of subjection in Cuban prisons, I feel more positive action should be taken to bring about Lawrence Lunt's release. He is married, the father of three children, and though his family has been allowed to visit him in prison, the family should be reunited.

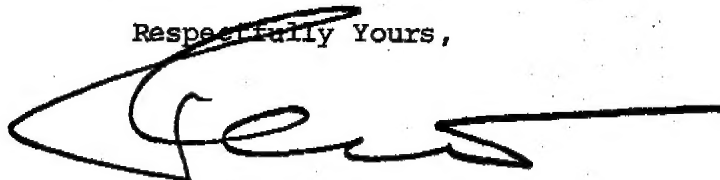
Any assistance you might be able to give Mr. Lunt would be most appreciated, Mr. President. If Ms. Lolita Lebron and her compatriots can be exchanged for a fine and concerned citizen, the likes of Mr. Lunt, such an exchange should be considered.

The President
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Again, I implore you to assist in Mr. Lunt's release in every way possible. He has given the best years of his life to the American cause, and, it only seems fitting that we should obtain his freedom for the remainder of his life.

He has been subject to the revolting and painful aspects of a Cuban jail long enough.

Respectfully Yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Teno Roncalio. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'T' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Teno Roncalio
Congressman for Wyoming

TR/kw